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| ESE LogoStarLogo08_A |  | **Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District** **COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW****REPORT OF FINDINGS****Dates of Onsite Visit:** **October 18-21, 2016****Date of Draft Report:** **January 9, 2017****Date of Final Report: March 13, 2017****Action Plan Due: April 10, 2017****Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Onsite Team Members:****Tom Hidalgo, Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM) Chair****Marc Oldenburg, PSM****Sibel Hughes, Office of English Language Acquisition and Academic Achievement (OELAAA) Chair** |
|  |  | **Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.** **Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education**  |
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**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT**

**Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District**

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**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT**

**Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District**

**SCOPE OF COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEWS**

As one part of its accountability system, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education oversees local compliance with education requirements through the Coordinated Program Review (CPR). All reviews cover selected requirements in the following areas:

Special Education (SE)

* selected requirements from the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-2004); the federal regulations promulgated under that Act at 34 CFR Part 300; M.G.L. c. 71B, and the Massachusetts Board of Education’s Special Education regulations (603 CMR 28.00), as amended effective March 1, 2007. The 2016 - 2017 Web-based Monitoring System (WBMS) districts conducted self-assessments across all criteria.

Civil Rights Methods of Administration and Other General Education Requirements (CR)

* selected federal civil rights requirements, including requirements under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, together with selected state requirements under M.G.L. c. 76, Section 5 as amended by Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011 and M.G.L. c. 269 §§ 17 through 19.
* selected requirements from the Massachusetts Board of Education’s Physical Restraint regulations (603 CMR 46.00).
* selected requirements from the Massachusetts Board of Education’s Student Learning Time regulations (603 CMR 27.00).
* various requirements under other federal and state laws.
* The 2016 - 2017 Web-based Monitoring System (WBMS) districts conducted self-assessments across all criteria.

English Learner Education (ELE) in Public Schools

* selected requirements from M.G.L. c. 71A, the state law that governs the provision of education to limited English proficient students, and 603 CMR 14.00, as well as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. During the 2016 - 2017 school year, all districts that enroll limited English proficient students will be reviewed using a combination of updated standards and a self-assessment instrument overseen by the Department’s Office of Language Acquisition and Academic Achievement (OELAAA), including a request for information regarding ELE programs and staff qualifications.

Some reviews also cover selected requirements in:

Career/Vocational Technical Education (CVTE)

* career/vocational technical education programs under the federal Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 and M.G.L. c. 74.

Districts providing Title I services participate in Title I program monitoring during the same year they are scheduled for a Coordinated Program Review. Details regarding the Title I program monitoring process are available at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/titlei/monitoring>.

**COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW ELEMENTS**

**Team:** Depending upon the size of a school district and the number of programs to be reviewed, a team of one to eight Department staff members conducts onsite activities over two to five days in a school district or charter school.

**Timing:** Each school district and charter school in the Commonwealth is scheduled to receive a Coordinated Program Review every six years and a mid-cycle special education follow-up visit three years after the Coordinated Program Review; approximately 66 school districts and charter schools are scheduled for Coordinated Program Reviews in 2016 - 2017, of which all districts participated in the Web-based Monitoring System (WBMS). The Department’s

2016 - 2017 schedule of Coordinated Program Reviews is posted on the Department’s web site at <<<http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/schedule.html>>>.  The statewide six-year Program Review cycle, including the Department’s Mid-cycle follow-up monitoring schedule, is posted at <<<http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/6yrcycle.html>>>.

**Criteria:** The Program Review criteria for each WBMS review begins with the district/school conducting a self-assessment across all 56 current special education criteria and 26 civil rights criteria. The Office of Public School Monitoring through its Desk Review procedures examines the district/school’s self-assessment submission and determines which criteria will be followed–up on through onsite verification activities. For more details, please see the section on **The Web-based Approach to** **Special Education and Civil Rights Monitoring** at the beginning of the School District Information Package for Special Education and Civil Rights.

The requirements selected for review in all of the regulated programs are those that are most closely aligned with the goals of the Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993 to promote student achievement and high standards for all students.

**WBMS Methods:** Methods used in reviewing special education and civil rights programs include:

Self-Assessment Phase:

* District/school review of special education and civil rights documentation for required elements including document uploads. Upon completion of this portion of the district/school’s self-assessment, it is submitted to the Department for review.
* District/school review of a sample of special education student records selected across grade levels, disability categories and level of need. Additional requirements for the appropriate selection of the student record sample can be found in **Appendix II: Student Record Review Procedures** of the School District Information Package for Special Education.

Upon completion of these two portions of the district/school’s self-assessment, it is submitted to the Department for review.

On-site Verification Phase: Includes activities selected from the following;

* Interviews of administrative, instructional, and support staff consistent with those criteria selected for onsite verification.
* Interviews of parent advisory council (PAC) representatives and other telephone interviews, as requested, by other parents or members of the general public.
* Review of student records for special education: The Department may select a sample of student records from those the district reviewed as part of its self-assessment, as well as records chosen by the Department from the special education student roster. The onsite team will conduct this review, using standard Department procedures, to determine whether procedural and programmatic requirements have been implemented.
* Surveys of parents of students with disabilities: Parents of students with disabilities whose files are selected for the record review, as well as the parents of an equal number of other students with disabilities, are sent a survey that solicits information regarding their experiences with the district’s implementation of special education programs, related services, and procedural requirements.
* Observation of classrooms and other facilities: The onsite team visits a sample of classrooms and other school facilities used in the delivery of programs and services to determine general levels of compliance with program requirements.
* Review of additional documents for special education or civil rights.

**Methods for all other programs in the Coordinated Program Review:**

* Review of documentation about the operation of the charter school or district's programs.
* Interviews of administrative, instructional, and support staff across all grade levels.
* Telephone interviews as requested by other parents or members of the general public.
* Review of student records for English learner education and career/vocational technical education:  The Department selects a representative sample of student records for the onsite team to review, using standard Department procedures, to determine whether procedural and programmatic requirements have been implemented.
* Surveys of parents of English learners whose files are selected for the record review are sent a survey of their experiences with the district's implementation of the English learner education program and related procedural requirements.
* Observation of classrooms and other facilities: The onsite team visits a sample of classrooms and other school facilities used in the delivery of programs and services to determine general levels of compliance with program requirements.

**Report:** **Preparation:**

At the end of the onsite visit, the onsite team will hold an informal exit meeting to summarize its comments for the superintendent or charter school leader and anyone else he or she chooses. Within approximately 45 business days of the onsite visit, the onsite chairperson will forward to the superintendent or charter school leader (and collaborative director where applicable) a Draft Report containing comments from the Program Review. The Draft Report comments for special education and civil rights are provided to the district/school on-line through the Web-based Monitoring System (WBMS). These comments will, once the district has had a chance to respond, form the basis for any findings by the Department. The district (and collaborative) will then have 10 business days to review the report for accuracy before the publication of a Final Report with ratings and findings (see below). The Final Report will be issued within approximately 60 business days of the conclusion of the onsite visit and posted on the Department’s website at <<http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/>>.

**Content of Final Report:**

*Ratings.* In the Final Report, the onsite team gives a rating for each compliance criterion it has reviewed; those ratings are “Commendable,” “Implemented,” “Implementation in Progress,” “Partially Implemented,” “Not Implemented,” and “Not Applicable.” “Implementation in Progress,” used for criteria containing new or updated legal requirements, means that the district has implemented any old requirements contained in the criterion and is training staff or beginning to implement the new requirements in such a way that the onsite team anticipates that the new requirements will be implemented by the end of the school year.

*Findings.* The onsite team includes a finding in the Final Report for each criterion that it rates “Commendable,” “Partially Implemented,” “Not Implemented,” or “Implementation in Progress,” explaining the basis for the rating. It may also include findings for other related criteria.

**Response:** Where criteria are found “Partially Implemented” or “Not Implemented,” the district or charter school must propose corrective action to bring those areas into compliance with the relevant statutes and regulations.  This corrective action plan (CAP) will be due to the Department within 20 business days after the issuance of the Final Report and is subject to the Department’s review and approval. Department staff will offer districts and charter schools technical assistance on the content and requirements for developing an approvable CAP.

Department staff will also provide ongoing technical assistance as the school or district is implementing the approved corrective action plan. **School districts and charter schools must demonstrate effective resolution of noncompliance identified by the Department as soon as possible but in no case later than one year from the issuance of the Department’s Final Program Review Report.**

# **INTRODUCTION TO THE FINAL REPORT**

#

A three-member Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education team visited

Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District during the week of October 17, 2016 to evaluate the implementation of selected criteria in the program areas of special education, civil rights and other related general education requirements, and English learner education. The team appreciated the opportunity to interview staff and parents, to observe classroom facilities and to review the programs underway in the district.

The Department is submitting the following Coordinated Program Review Report containing findings made pursuant to this onsite visit. In preparing this report, the team reviewed extensive written documentation regarding the operation of the district's programs, together with information gathered by means of the following Department program review methods:

* Interviews of six administrative staff.
* Interviews of 27 teaching and support services staff across all levels.
* Interviews of two parent advisory council (PAC) representatives.
* Student record reviews: Samples of 29 special education student records and 22 English learner education student records.
* Surveys of parents of students with disabilities: 50 parents of students with disabilities were sent surveys that solicited information about their experiences with the district’s implementation of special education programs, related services and procedural requirements. Five of these parent surveys were returned to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for review.
* Surveys of parents of ELE students: Ten parents of ELE students were sent surveys that solicited information about their experiences with the district’s implementation of English learner education programs, services, and procedural requirements. No parent surveys were returned to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for review.
* Observation of classrooms and other facilities. A sample of nine instructional classrooms and other school facilities used in the delivery of programs and services was visited to examine general levels of compliance with program requirements.

The report includes findings in the program areas reviewed organized under nine components. These components are:

**Component I: Assessment of Students**

**Component II: Student Identification and Program Placement**

**Component III: Parent and Community Involvement**

**Component IV: Curriculum and Instruction**

**Component V: Student Support Services**

**Component VI: Faculty, Staff and Administration**

**Component VII: Facilities**

**Component VIII: Program Evaluation**

**Component IX: Recordkeeping and Fund Use**

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| The district conducted a self-assessment and the Department reviewed all of the criteria in the specific program areas. The Coordinated Program Review Report includes those criteria that were found by the team to be implemented in a “Commendable” manner, as well as criteria receiving a rating of "Partially Implemented," "Not Implemented," or “Implementation in Progress.” (Refer to the “Definition of Compliance Ratings” section of the report.) **Program Review Reports no longer include criteria receiving a rating of “Implemented” or “Not Applicable.”** This change will allow the district and the Department to focus their efforts on those areas requiring corrective action. For those criteria receiving a rating of “Partially Implemented” or “Not Implemented,” the district or charter school must propose to the Department corrective actions to bring those areas into compliance with the controlling statute or regulation. For any criteria receiving a rating of “Implementation in Progress,” the district must indicate the steps the district will continue to take in order to fulfill the regulatory requirements. Districts are expected to incorporate the corrective actions into their district and school improvement plans, including their professional development plans. |

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| **DEFINITION OF COMPLIANCE RATINGS** |
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| **Commendable** | Any requirement or aspect of a requirement implemented in an exemplary manner significantly beyond the requirements of law or regulation. |
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| **Implemented** | The requirement is substantially met in all important aspects. |
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| **Implementation in Progress** | This rating is used for criteria containing new or updated legal requirements and means that the district has implemented any old requirements contained in the criterion and is training staff or beginning to implement the new requirements in such a way that the onsite team anticipates that the new requirements will be implemented by the end of the school year. |
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| **Partially Implemented** | The requirement, in one or several important aspects, is not entirely met. |
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| **Not Implemented** | The requirement is totally or substantially not met. |
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| **Not Applicable**  | The requirement does not apply to the school district or charter school. |

Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District

**SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE CRITERIA RATINGS**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Special Education** | **Civil Rights and Other General Education Requirements** | **English Learner Education** |
| **IMPLEMENTED** | SE 1, SE 2, SE 3, SE 3A, SE 4, SE 5, SE 6, SE 7, SE 9, SE 9A, SE 10, SE 12, SE 13, SE 14, SE 15, SE 18A, SE 19, SE 20, SE 21, SE 22, SE 24, SE 25, SE 25A, SE 25B, SE 26, SE 27, SE 29, SE 32, SE 33, SE 34, SE 35, SE 36, SE 37, SE 38, SE 39A, SE 39B, SE 40, SE 41, SE 43, SE 44, SE 45, SE 46, SE 47, SE 48, SE 49, SE 50, SE 51, SE 52, SE 52A, SE 53, SE 55, SE 56, SE 59 | CR 6, CR 7, CR 7A, CR 7B, CR 7C, CR 9, CR 10, CR 11A, CR 12A, CR 13, CR 18, CR 18A, CR 20, CR 21, CR 22, CR 23, CR 24, CR 26A | ELE 1, ELE 2, ELE 3, ELE 4, ELE 5, ELE 6, ELE 7, ELE 8, ELE 9, ELE 10, ELE 11, ELE 12, ELE 13, ELE 14, ELE 15, ELE 16, ELE 18 |
| **PARTIALLY****IMPLEMENTED** | SE 8, SE 11, SE 18B, SE 54 | CR 3, CR 8, CR 10A, CR 10B, CR 10C, CR 14, CR 15, CR 16,CR 17A, CR 25 |  |
| **NOT IMPLEMENTED** |  |  | ELE 17 |
| **NOT APPLICABLE** | SE 16, SE 17, SE 42 |  |  |
| **OTHER CRITERIA****REQUIRING****RESPONSE** |  |  |  |

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| **SPECIAL EDUCATION** **LEGAL STANDARDS,** **COMPLIANCE RATINGS AND** **FINDINGS** |

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| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| **SE 8** | IEP Team composition and attendanceThe following persons are members of the IEP Team and may serve in multiple roles:1. The child´s parents.
2. A representative of the school district who acts as Chairperson and who is (1) qualified to supervise or provide special education; (2) is knowledgeable about the general curriculum; and (3) is knowledgeable about the availability of resources of the district.
3. A representative of the school district who has the authority to commit the resources of the district (and who may act as the Chairperson).
	1. If the student *may* be involved in a regular education program, a regular education teacher. If the student *is* involved in a regular education program, a regular education teacher of the student.
	2. If the student is participating in a special education program, a special education teacher of the student or, if appropriate, a special education provider for the student.
4. The student, if one purpose of the meeting is to discuss transition services or if otherwise appropriate and if he/she chooses.
5. Other individuals at the request of the student's parents.
6. Reserved
7. An individual who is qualified to interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results, who may be any one of the persons identified in parts 2 - 4 above.
8. Other individuals who may be necessary to write an IEP for the child, as determined by the Administrator of Special Education.
9. When one purpose of the Team meeting is to discuss transition services, with the consent of the parent(s) or student who has reached the age of majority, the public agency must invite a representative of any participating agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services.
10. Reserved
11. When one purpose of the Team meeting is to discuss placement, a person knowledgeable about placement options is present at the meeting.
12. Members of the Team attend Team meetings unless:
	1. the parent and district agree to use alternative means, such as a video conference or a conference call, for any Team meeting OR
	2. the district and the parent agree, in writing, that the attendance of the Team member is not necessary because the member´s area of the curriculum or related services is not being modified or discussed OR
	3. the district and the parent agree, in writing, to excuse a required Team member´s participation and the excused member provides written input into the development of the IEP to the parent and the IEP Team prior to the meeting.
 |
|  | State Requirements | Federal Requirements |
|  | 603 CMR 28.02(21). Part 1 of this criterion is related to State Performance Plan Indicator 8. Parts 5, 10, are related to Performance Plan Indicators 13 and 14. (See <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/spp/>.) | 34 CFR 300.116(a), 300.321, 300.328.See also, in the IDEA 97 regulations, 34 CFR Part 300, Appendix A, to State Question #22 |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Record review and interviews indicated that when one purpose of the Team meeting is to discuss transition services, the district is not inviting a representative of a participating agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services, with the consent of the parent(s) or student who has reached the age of majority.* |

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| **SE 11** | School district response to parental request for independent educational evaluationIf a parent disagrees with an initial evaluation or re-evaluation completed by the school district, and the parent requests an independent educational evaluation, the district implements the following requirements:1. All independent educational evaluations funded by the district are conducted by qualified persons who are registered, certified, licensed or otherwise approved and who abide by the rates set by the state agency responsible for setting such rates. Unique circumstances of the student are to be justified when an individual assessment rate is higher than that normally allowed.
2. The school district has procedures to offer parents the option of participating in an income eligibility program for free or reduced cost independent educational evaluations that are equivalent to the types of assessments done by the school district.
3. The district extends the right to a publicly funded independent educational evaluation (only if cost shared or funded for state wards or for students receiving free or reduced cost lunch) for sixteen (16) months from the date of the evaluation with which the parent disagrees.
4. If the parent is requesting an independent education evaluation in an area not assessed by the school district, the student does not meet income eligibility standards or the family chooses not to provide financial documentation to the school district establishing family income level, the school district shall respond in accordance with the requirements of federal law. Within five school days, the district shall either agree to pay for the independent education evaluation or, proceed to the Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA) to show that its evaluation was comprehensive and appropriate. If the Bureau of Special Education Appeals finds that the school district’s evaluation was comprehensive and appropriate, then the school district shall not be obligated to pay for the independent educational evaluation requested by the parent.
5. Whenever possible, the independent educational evaluation is completed and a written report sent no later than thirty (30) days after the date the parent requests the independent educational evaluation. If publicly funded, the report is sent to the parents and to the school district. The independent evaluator’s report summarizes, in writing, procedures, assessments, results, and diagnostic impressions as well as educationally relevant recommendations for meeting identified needs of the student. The independent evaluator recommends appropriate types of placements but does not recommend specific classrooms or schools.
6. Within ten (10) school days from the time the school district receives the report of the independent educational evaluation, the Team reconvenes and considers the independent educational evaluation (which may be publicly or privately funded) and whether a new or amended IEP is appropriate.
 |
|  | State Requirements | Federal Requirements |
|  | 603 CMR 28.04(5) | 34 CFR 300.502 |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicated that the district's procedures for independent educational evaluations (IEEs) funded by the district do not address the following: 1) justifying an individual assessment rate higher than normal rate; 2) completion of the IEE within 30 days; 3) assuring that the content of the IEE includes a summary of procedures, assessments, results, diagnostic impressions and recommendations; and 4) extending the right to a publicly funded independent educational evaluation (only if cost shared or funded for state wards or for students receiving free or reduced cost lunch) for sixteen (16) months from the date of the evaluation with which the parent disagrees.* |

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| SE 18B | Determination of placement; provision of IEP to parent1. At the Team meeting, after the IEP has been fully developed, the Team determines the appropriate placement to deliver the services on the student’s IEP.
2. Unless the student’s IEP requires some other arrangement, the student is educated in the school that he or she would attend if the student did not require special education.
3. The decision regarding placement is based on the IEP, including the types of related services that are to be provided to the student, the type of settings in which those services are to be provided, the types of service providers, and the location at which the services are to be provided.
4. Reserved
5. Immediately following the development of the IEP, the district provides the parent with two (2) copies of the proposed IEP and proposed placement along with the required notice, except that the proposal of placement may be delayed according to the provisions of 603 CMR 28.06(2)(e) in a limited number of cases.
 |
|  | State Requirements | Federal Requirements |
|  | 603 CMR 28.05(6) and (7); 28.06(2) | 34 CFR 300.116; 300.325 |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Record review and interviews indicated that the district provides a summary at the conclusion of the Team meeting, but does not consistently provide the parent(s) with the proposed IEP and proposed placement along with the required notice within two calendar weeks.* |

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| **SE 54** | **Professional development**1. The district considers the needs of all staff in developing training opportunities for professional and paraprofessional staff and provides a variety of offerings.
2. The district ensures that all staff, including both special education and general education staff, are trained on:
	1. state and federal special education requirements and related local special education policies and procedures;
	2. analyzing and accommodating diverse learning styles of all students in order to achieve an objective of inclusion in the general education classroom of students with diverse learning styles;
	3. methods of collaboration among teachers, paraprofessionals and teacher assistants to accommodate diverse learning styles of all students in the general education classroom;
3. The district provides in-service training for all locally hired and contracted transportation providers, before they begin transporting any special education student receiving special transportation, on his or her needs and appropriate methods of meeting those needs; for any such student it also provides written information on the nature of any needs or problems that may cause difficulties, along with information on appropriate emergency measures. Transportation providers include drivers of general and special education vehicles and any attendants or aides identified by a Team for either type of vehicle.
 |
|  | State Requirements | Federal Requirements |
|  | M.G.L. c. 71, §§ 38G , 38Q and 38Q ½603 CMR 28.03(1)(a); 28.06(8)(b) and (c) |  |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review and interviews indicated that the district does not ensure that all staff, including both special education and general education staff, are trained on: state and federal special education requirements and related local special education policies and procedures; analyzing and accommodating diverse learning styles of all students in order to achieve an objective of inclusion in the general education classroom of students with diverse learning styles; and methods of collaboration among teachers, paraprofessionals and teacher assistants to accommodate diverse learning styles of all students in the general education classroom.* |

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| **CIVIL RIGHTS** **METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION (CR)** **AND** **OTHER RELATED GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS****LEGAL STANDARDS,** **COMPLIANCE RATINGS AND** **FINDINGS** |

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| **CRITERION****NUMBER** | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION (CR)AND OTHER RELATED GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS II. STUDENT IDENTIFICATION AND PLACEMENT |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| CR 3 | Access to a full range of education programsAll students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness, have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district. |
|  | Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(a),(b); EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(f); Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.31, 106.34, 106.35; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.4; Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130; IDEA 2004: 20 U.S.C. 1400; 34 CFR 300.110; NCLB: Title III, Part A, Sec. 3121(c)(1)(C); Title X, Part C, Secs. 721, 722(g)(4); Mass. Const. amend. art. 114; M.G.L. c. 71A, s. 7; c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.03 as amended by Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011 |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicated that the district's description for how it ensures that all students have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs omits the protected category of gender identity.* |

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| CR 8 | Accessibility of extracurricular activitiesExtracurricular activities sponsored by the district are nondiscriminatory in that:1. the school provides equal opportunity for all students to participate in intramural and interscholastic sports;
2. extracurricular activities or clubs sponsored by the school do not exclude students on the basis of race, sex, gender identity, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness.
 |
|  | Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(a), (b); Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.31, 106.41; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.4,104.37(a), (c); Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130; NCLB: Title X, Part C, Sec. 721; Mass. Const. amend. art 114; M.G.L. c. 76, § 5; 603 CMR 26.06 (1) as amended by Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011 |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicated that the district's description of how it ensures extracurricular activities are accessible to all students does not reference the protected categories of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, and homelessness.* |

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION (CR)AND OTHER RELATED GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**V. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES** |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| **CR 10A** | Student handbooks and codes of conduct1. 1. The district has a code of conduct for students and one for teachers.
	2. The principal of every school containing grades 9-12 prepares, in consultation with the school council, a student handbook containing the student code of conduct and distributes it to each student annually, as well as to parents and school personnel; the school council reviews and revises the student code of conduct every year.
	3. The principal of every school containing other grades distributes the district’s student code of conduct to students, parents, and personnel annually.
	4. At the request of a parent or student whose primary language is not English, a student handbook or student code of conduct is translated into that language.
2. Student codes of conduct contain:
	1. procedures assuring due process in disciplinary proceedings and
	2. the district’s responsibility to provide every student with an opportunity to make academic progress during the period of suspension whether in-school, out-of-school, or expulsion.
	3. appropriate procedures for the discipline of students with disabilities and students with Section 504 Accommodation Plans.
	4. if a charter school or a virtual school, the designation by the board of trustees as to who shall serve as the principal and who shall serve as superintendent for the purpose of 603 CMR 53.00.
3. Student handbooks and codes of conduct reference M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5 and contain:
	1. a nondiscrimination policy that is consistent with M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5, and affirms the school’s non-tolerance for harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, religion, or sexual orientation, or discrimination on those same bases;
	2. the school’s procedure for accepting, investigating and resolving complaints alleging discrimination or harassment; and
	3. the disciplinary measures that the school may impose if it determines that harassment or discrimination has occurred.
 |
|  | Section 504; M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H; M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H ¾; 603 CMR 53.00; 603 CMR 26.08 as amended by Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011 |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicated that the district's non-discrimination statement omits gender identity as a protected category.* |

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| CR 10B | Bullying Intervention and Prevention1. Public schools (including charter schools and collaboratives) must update school handbooks to conform to their updated amended Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan (Plan). The school handbook (and local updated Plan) must be consistent with the amendments to the Massachusetts anti-bullying law, which became effective July 1, 2013. The amendments extend protections to students who are bullied by a member of the school staff. As defined in G.L. c. 71, 37O, as amended, a member of the school staff includes, but is not limited to, an “educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional.” The school handbook must make clear that a member of the school staff may be named the “aggressor” or “perpetrator” in a bullying report.
2. School and district employee handbooks must also contain relevant sections of the amended Plan relating to the duties of faculty and staff and relevant provisions addressing the bullying of students by a school staff member.
3. Each year all school districts and schools must give parents and guardians annual written notice of the student-related sections of the local Plan.
4. Each year all school districts and schools must provide all staff with annual written notice of the Plan.
5. All schools and school districts must implement, for all school staff, professional development that includes developmentally appropriate strategies to prevent bullying incidents; developmentally appropriate strategies for immediate, effective interventions to stop bullying incidents; information regarding the complex interaction and power differential that can take place between and among a perpetrator, victim and witnesses to the bullying; research findings on bullying, including information about specific categories of students who have been shown to be particularly at risk for bullying in the school environment; information on the incidence and nature of cyber-bullying; and internet safety issues as they relate to cyber-bullying.
 |
|  | M.G.L. c. 71, s. 37H, as amended by Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2010. M.G.L. c. 71, s. 37O(e)(1) & (2). M.G.L. c. 71, s. 370(d), as amended. |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review and interviews indicated the district updated the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan to extend protections to students who are bullied by a member of the school staff; however, the student handbook has not been updated to make clear that a member of the school staff may be named the "aggressor" or "perpetrator" in a bullying report.* |

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| CR 10C | Student DisciplineEach school committee and board of trustees shall ensure that policies and procedures are in place in public preschool, elementary, and secondary schools and programs under its jurisdiction that meet, at a minimum, the requirements of M.G.L.c. 71, section 37H ¾, M.G.L.c. 76, section 21, and 603 CMR 53.00. These policies and procedures must address or establish, but are not limited to:1. The notice of suspension and hearing;
2. Procedures for emergency removal;
3. Procedures for principal hearings for both short and long-term suspension;
4. Procedures for in-school suspension;
5. Procedures for superintendent hearing;
6. Procedures for education services and academic progress (School-wide Education Service Plan);
7. A system for periodic review of discipline data by special populations;
8. Alternatives to suspension.
 |
|  | M.G.L.c. 71, section 37H ¾, M.G.L.c. 76, section 21, and 603 CMR 53.00, M.G.L.c. 71 section 38R and Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2013. |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicated that the district’s Notice of Suspension and Hearing does not include the right to appeal a long-term suspension to the superintendent, and the notice is not provided to both the parent and the student. Additionally, the district has not developed a system for collecting and reviewing discipline data by special populations.* |

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| **CR 14** | Counseling and counseling materials free from bias and stereotypesTo ensure that counseling and counseling materials are free from bias and stereotypes on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, and homelessness, all counselors:1. encourage students to consider programs of study, courses, extracurricular activities, and occupational opportunities on the basis of individual interests, abilities, and skills;
2. examine testing materials for bias and counteract any found bias when administering tests and interpreting test results;
3. communicate effectively with limited-English-proficient and disabled students and facilitate their access to all programs and services offered by the district;
4. provide limited-English-proficient students with the opportunity to receive guidance and counseling in a language they understand;
5. support students in educational and occupational pursuits that are nontraditional for their gender.
 |
|  | Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(a), (b); EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(f); Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.31, 106.36; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.4, 104.37; Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130, 35.160; NCLB: Title III, Part A, Sec. 3121(c)(1)(C); Title X, Part C, Sec. 721; Mass. Const. amend. art. 114; M.G.L. c. 71A, § 7; c. 76, § 5; 603 CMR 26.04, 26.07(8) as amended by Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011 |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicated that the district's procedures to ensure counseling and counseling materials are free from bias and stereotyping do not reference the protected categories of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, and homelessness.* |

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| CR 15 | Non-discriminatory administration of scholarships, prizes and awardsScholarships, prizes and awards sponsored or administered by the district are free of restrictions based upon race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.Schools may post or print information regarding private restricted scholarships as long as no preferential treatment is given to any particular scholarship offered and as long as the school does not endorse or recommend any such scholarship nor advise or suggest to a particular student that he or she apply for such a scholarship. |
|  | Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3; Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.31, 106.37; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.4(b)(1)(v); Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130(b)(1)(v); Mass. Const. amend. art. 114; M.G.L. c. 76, § 5; 603 CMR 26.07(7) as amended by Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011 |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicated that the district's description of how it administers scholarships, prizes and awards omits the protected category of gender identity.* |

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| CR 16 | Notice to students 16 or over leaving school without a high school diploma, certificate of attainment, or certificate of completion1. No student who has not graduated from high school shall be considered to have permanently left public school unless an administrator of the school where the student last attended has sent notice within 5 days from the student’s tenth consecutive absence to the student and the parent/guardian of the student in English and the primary language of the parent or guardian (to the extent practicable). The notice shall offer at least two dates and times for an exit interview between the superintendent (or designee) and the student and the parent/guardian to occur prior to the student permanently leaving school. The notice shall include contact information for scheduling the exit interview and indicate that the parties shall agree to a date and time for the exit interview and that the interview shall occur within 10 days of the notice. The time and the date for the exit interview may be extended at the request of the parent/guardian but for no longer than 14 days. The superintendent or designee may proceed with an exit interview without a parent/guardian if the superintendent or designee makes a good faith effort to include the parent/guardian.
2. The exit interview shall be for the purpose of discussing the reasons for the student permanently leaving school and to consider alternative education programs and services available to the student. The superintendent (or designee) shall convene a team of school personnel, such as the principal, guidance counselor, teachers, attendance officer and other relevant school staff, to participate in the exit interview with the student and the parent/guardian. During the exit interview, the student shall be given information about the detrimental effects of early withdrawal from school, the benefits of earning a high school diploma and a list of alternative education program and services available to the student.
3. Any district serving students in high school grades sends annual written notice to former students who have not yet earned their competency determination and who have not transferred to another school
	1. to inform them of the availability of publicly funded post-high school academic support programs and
	2. to encourage them to participate in those programs.

At a minimum, the district sends annual written notice by first class mail to the last known address of each such student who attended a high school in the district within the past two years.1. The Superintendent shall annually report to the Department the number of students sixteen years of age or older who have permanently left school, the reasons for such leaving and any alternative educational or other placement the student has taken.
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|  | M.G.L. c. 76, §§ 5, 18; St. 1965, c. 741 |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review and interviews indicated that the district sends parents a notice within five days of a student's tenth consecutive absence, but does not send the notice to the student, as required. Additionally, the district does not provide a notice annually to inform former students, who have left school within the past two years without a competency determination, of the availability of publicly funded post-high school academic support programs, encouraging them to participate in those programs.* |

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| CR 17A | Use of physical restraint on any student enrolled in a publicly-funded education program1. Public education programs must develop and implement written restraint prevention and behavior support policy and procedures consistent with new regulations 603CMR 46.00 regarding appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention.
	1. restraint prevention and behavior support policy and procedures shall be annually reviewed and provided to program staff and made available to parents of enrolled students.
	2. restraint prevention and behavior support policy and procedures shall include, but not be limited to: methods for preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior and suicide; methods for engaging parents and youth in discussions about restraint prevention and use; a description and explanation of the program’s alternatives to physical restraint and method of physical restraint in emergency situations; a statement prohibiting: medication restraint, mechanical restraint, prone restraint unless permitted pursuant to 603 CMR 46.03(1)(b), seclusion, and the use of restraint inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.03; a description of the program’s training requirements, reporting requirements, and follow-up procedures; a procedure for receiving and investigating complaints; a procedure for conducting periodic review of data and documentation on the program’s use of restraint; a procedure for implementing the reporting requirements; a procedure for making both oral and written notification to the parent; and a procedure for the use of time-out.
2. Each principal or director shall determine a time and method to provide all program staff with training regarding the program’s restraint prevention and behavior support policy and requirements when restraint is used. Such training shall occur within the first month of each school year and, for employees hired after the school year begins, within a month of their employment.
3. At the beginning of each school year, the principal of each public education program or his/her designee shall identify program staff who are authorized to serve as a school-wide resource to assist in ensuring proper administration of physical restraint. Such staff shall have in-depth training on the use of physical restraint.
4. The program administers physical restraint on students only in emergency situations of last resort when needed to protect a student and/or member of the school community from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm and with extreme caution in order to prevent or minimize any harm to the student as a result of the use of physical restraint.
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|  | M.G.L. c. 71, § 37G; 603 CMR 46.00 effective January 1, 2016 |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review and interviews indicated that while the district has developed a written restraint prevention and behavior support policy, it has not developed procedures for the implementation of the policy, to include: methods for preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior and suicide; methods for engaging parents in discussions about restraint prevention and use; a description and explanation of the program's alternatives to physical restraint and method of physical restraint in emergency situations; a statement prohibiting medication restraint, mechanical restraint, prone restraint unless permitted pursuant to 603 CMR 46.03(1)(b), seclusion, and the use of restraint inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.03; a description of the program's training requirements, reporting requirements, and follow-up procedures; a procedure for receiving and investigating complaints; a procedure for conducting periodic review of data and documentation on the program's use of restraint; a procedure for implementing the reporting requirements; a procedure for making both oral and written notification to the parent; and a procedure for the use of time-out.* |

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| CR 25 | Institutional self-evaluationThe district evaluates all aspects of its K-12 program annually to ensure that all students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, limited English proficiency, sexual orientation, disability, or housing status, have equal access to all programs, including athletics and other extracurricular activities. It makes such changes as are indicated by the evaluation. |
|  | Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(b)(2); EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(f); Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.4(b)(4); Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130(b)(3); NCLB: Title III, Part A, Sec. 3121(c)(1)(C); Title X, Part C, Sec. 722(g)(1)(J)(i), 722(g)(7); Mass. Const. amend. art. 114; M.G.L. c. 71A, § 7; c. 76, § 5; 603 CMR 26.07(1),(4) as amended by Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011 |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review and interviews indicated that the district does not conduct an annual institutional self-evaluation on all aspects of its grade 7-12 program to ensure that all students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, limited English proficiency, sexual orientation, disability, or housing status, have equal access to all programs, including athletics and other extracurricular activities.* |

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| **ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION****LEGAL STANDARDS,** **COMPLIANCE RATINGS AND** **FINDINGS** |

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| **CRITERION****NUMBER** | ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION**VIII. PROGRAM PLAN AND EVALUATION** |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| ELE 17 | **Program Evaluation**The district conducts periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of its ELE program in developing students' English language skills and increasing their ability to participate meaningfully in the educational program. Where the district documents that the program is not effective, it takes steps to make appropriate program adjustments or changes that are responsive to the outcomes of the program evaluation.**Authority: Title VI; EEOA. Title III § 3121**  |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Not Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicated that the district has not conducted an ELE program evaluation since 2011, although every district is expected to repeat this process periodically and make appropriate program adjustments based on the outcomes of the evaluation. Furthermore, the ELE program evaluation conducted in 2011 does not meet the criteria as outlined in the "ESE Form 4: Program Evaluation Rubric" the Department uses to review districts' ELE program evaluations. The Department concludes that the district does not have a comprehensive system in place to evaluate the effectiveness of its ELE program in developing students' English language skills and increasing their ability to participate meaningfully in the educational program.* |

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| This Coordinated Program Review Final Report is also available at:<http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/>.Profile information supplied by each charter school and school district, including information for individual schools within districts, is available at <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>. |

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| Prepared by: | MLP/TH |